

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

- 5 1. A method of selectively displaying a markup language form element on a Web page when an object is available to a Web server, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) associating the markup language form element with the object;
 - (b) determining whether the object is available to the Web server;
 - (c) generating a markup language document that includes the markup
 - 10 language form element if the object is available to the Web server; and
 - (d) displaying the markup language form element on the Web page if the markup language document contains the markup language form element.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the markup language is HTML.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the markup language form element is a button.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) includes maintaining a record of whether the object is available to the Web server within a configuration file.
- 20 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the configuration file is written in XML.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the object is an application program.
- 25 7. The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) further comprises the step of generating a markup language document that does not include the markup language form element if the object is not available to the Web server.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) further comprises the step of generating a markup language document that includes a disabled markup language form element if the object is not available to the Web server.

9. A computer program comprising means adapted to perform all the steps of claim 1 when said program is run on a networked computer.

10. A computer program as claimed in claim 9 embodied on a computer readable medium.

11. A program product stored on a computer readable medium for generating a markup language document for display on a Web page when an object is available to a Web server, said program product comprising:

- (a) means for associating the markup language form element with the object;
- (b) means for determining whether the object is available to the Web server;
- (c) means for generating a markup language document that includes the markup language form element if the object is available to the Web server; and
- (d) means for displaying the markup language form element on the Web page if the markup language document contains the markup language form element.

12. The product of claim 11, wherein the markup language is HTML.

13. The product of claim 11, wherein the markup language form element is a button.

14. The product of claim 11, further comprising means for maintaining a record of whether the object is available to the Web server within a configuration file.

15. The product of claim 14, wherein the configuration file is written in XML.

16. The product of claim 11, wherein the object is an application program.

17. The product of claim 11, further comprising means for the step of generating a markup language document that does not include the markup language form element if the object is not available to the Web server.

18. The product of claim 11, further comprising means for generating a markup language document that includes a disabled markup language form element if the object is not available to the Web server.

19. A computer program comprising:

- (a) means for associating a markup language form element with an object;
- (b) means for determining whether the object is available to a Web server;
- (c) means for generating a markup language document that includes the markup language form element if the object is available to the Web server; and
- (d) means for displaying the markup language form element on the Web page if the markup language document contains the markup language form element.

20. The program of claim 19, wherein the markup language is HTML.

21. The program of claim 19, wherein the markup language form element is a button.

22. The program of claim 19, further comprising means for maintaining a record of whether the object is available to the Web server within a configuration file.

23. The program of claim 22, wherein the configuration file is written in XML.

24. The program of claim 19, wherein the object is an application program.

25. The program of claim 19, further comprising means for the step of generating a markup language document that does not include the markup language form element if the object is not available to the Web server.

26. The program of claim 19, further comprising means for generating a markup language document that includes a disabled markup language form element if the object is not available to the Web server.

27. The program of claim 19 wherein said program resides on a computer readable medium.

28. A computer system for selectively displaying a markup language form element on a Web page when an associated object is available to a Web server, said computer system comprising:

(a) a server for generating a markup language document, said server comprising:

(i) storage means for storing a value representing whether the object is available to the Web server;

(ii) a first processing means coupled to said storage means for:

(A) determining whether the object is available to the Web server;

(B) generating a markup language document that includes the markup language form element if the object is available to the Web server;

(b) a communications network coupled to said server; and

(c) a second processing means coupled to said server through said communications network, said second processing means for reading and displaying the markup language document.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the markup language is HTML.

30. The system of claim 28, wherein the markup language form element is a button.

31. The system of claim 28, wherein said first processing means further generates a markup language document that does not include the markup language form element if the object is not available to the Web server.

32. The system of claim 28, wherein said first processing means further generates a markup language document that includes a disabled markup language form element if the object is not available to the Web server.

33. A computer program product comprising:
a computer-readable signal-bearing medium;
means in said medium for accomplishing the method of any of claims 1 to 8.

34. The product of claim 33, wherein said medium is a recordable data storage medium.

35. The product of claim 33, wherein said medium is a modulated carrier signal.

36. The product of claim 35 wherein said signal is a transmission over a network.

37. The product of claim 36 wherein said network is the Internet.